



US Army Corps of Engineers

PORTLAND DISTRICT

Search Portland District

[ABOUT](#) [BUSINESS](#) [MISSIONS](#) [LOCATIONS](#) [CAREERS](#) [MEDIA](#) [REFERENCES](#) [CONTACT](#)
[HOME](#) > [MISSIONS](#) > [CURRENT PROJECTS](#) > [CORMORANT EIS](#)

Columbia River Estuary Cormorants: Environmental Impact Statement



About the double-crested cormorants

Collapse All Expand All

☒ East Sand Island's double-crested cormorant colony has grown to a record size of approximately 14,900 nesting pairs in 2013 (over 40 percent of the western population). This single colony is considered the largest in western North America; it's likely the largest breeding colony in North America.

[Click here for more about the western population of double-crested cormorants.](#)

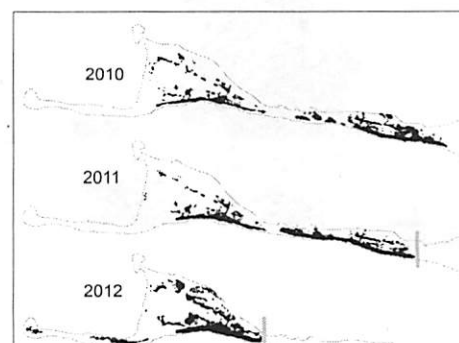
The Corps has been conducting research studying the impact of avian predation on juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary since 1997. The research on East Sand Island contributes to understanding of the impacts cormorants have on juvenile salmonids migrating out to the ocean. [Click here to see two graphics demonstrating the impact of the cormorant colony on East Sand Island to salmonids.](#) The first graph shows the increasing trend in the rate of predation of the colony on juvenile salmonids. The second graph shows the seasonal proportion of salmon of double-crested cormorants throughout their nesting season.



In 2008, the Corps began to investigate certain non-lethal methods to dissuade double-crested cormorants from nesting in specific locations on East Sand Island. Methods tested to date include hazing with lights, reducing nesting habitat, and using human presence to flush double-crested cormorants off potential nesting sites.

In 2011, the studies focused on reducing the amount of available nesting habitat for double-crested cormorants, which is approximately 11 acres on the western portion of the island and tracking dispersal of radio and satellite tagged individual double-crested cormorants. Habitat reduction was primarily accomplished by installing barrier fences and using human hazers to flush birds from the non designated nesting area.

In 2013, double-crested cormorants were restricted to 4.4 acres. 83 adult double-crested cormorants were marked with satellite transmitters and several hundred adults were banded with leg bands to provide information about where double-crested cormorants would move during the dissuasion efforts. In spite of a 70% reduction in available nesting habitat, the colony grew to 14,900 pairs. Near-term dispersal locations of radio and satellite tagged double-crested cormorants during the 2011-2013 breeding seasons were generally to four main areas identified in geographic proximity to East Sand Island:



1. Columbia River Estuary (defined as tidally influenced areas near Bonneville Dam);
2. Outer Washington coast (Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor)
3. Puget Sound; and
4. Northern Salish Sea (San Juan Islands, Strait of Georgia, Vancouver, BC (BRNW 2014).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement and management plan to reduce predation of juvenile salmon and steelhead by double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary. In the past 15 years, double-crested cormorants on East Sand Island consumed approximately 11 million juvenile salmon and steelhead per year. The Corps is working with its cooperating agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop the EIS.

The Corps knows managing double-crested cormorant predation could cause significant impacts to the western population of double-crested cormorants. Therefore we must analyze those impacts and evaluate them when making a decision. It is important to note that we are not taking any action at this time, except to request comments on our draft EIS and management plan. Only after a final EIS is completed and a Record of Decision is signed later this year would the Corps begin to implement the preferred alternative.

Several of these areas, the Columbia River Estuary and outer Washington coast, have had the highest levels of use by double-crested cormorants during dissuasion research in 2012 and 2013. There were no confirmed detections of radio- or satellite-tagged double-crested cormorants at inland sites east of The Dalles Dam or coastal sites south of Cannon Beach, Ore.

- ☐ Project progress
- ☐ Developing a management plan
- ☐ EIS alternatives

For more information

Phone: 503-808-4510

Email us about the Cormorant EIS

Studies, plans and reports

- ☐ Collapse All ☐ Expand All
- ☐ Pacific Flyway Council Plan

Latest public notices

Draft EIS: Double-crested cormorant plan to reduce predation of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary

6/12/2014

Draft EA: Caspian tern predation management in the Lower Columbia River Estuary

4/24/2013

Draft EIS: scoping and public meetings for cormorant management

11/1/2012

[> More environmental public notices](#)

Public involvement information

- ☐ Collapse All ☐ Expand All
- ☐ Submit your comments
- ☐ Project schedule
- ☐ Public meetings and webinar information
- ☐ Transcript from webinar held on July 15, 2014
- ☐ Join the mailing list

Documents

- EIS Executive summary
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- FAQ: Columbia River Basin salmonids and the Endangered Species Act
- Overview of Columbia River Estuary double-crested cormorants EIS
- Double-crested cormorant research on East Sand Island
- Research, Monitoring & Evaluation of Avian Predation on Salmonid Smolts in the ...
- Cormorant EIS e-newsletter, Feb. 2013
- Public scoping, meetings
- Status assessment (2010)

East Sand Island images



Caption



Related ...

- Double-crested cormorants on YouTube ...
- Double-crested cormorants on YouTube: nesting ...
- Double-crested cormorants on YouTube: draft EIS ...
- Public notice: draft EIS released
- Citizen's Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act ...
- Columbia River Salmonids and the Endangered Species Act FAQ

[Columbia River Estuary double-crested cormorants FAQ](#)

[Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion at Salmonrecovery.gov](#)

[Managing Wildlife Conflicts: The Mission of the APHIS Wildlife Services Program ...](#)

[BirdResearchNW.org](#)



[Accessibility](#)

[Link Disclaimer](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[No Fear Act](#)

[USA.gov](#)

[FOIA](#)

[Privacy & Security](#)

[Information Quality Act](#)

[Public Affairs](#)

Pacific Fishery Management Council

[skip navigation](#)

- [Home](#)
- [About us](#)
- [Contact or visit us](#)
- [Current \(or next\) Council Meeting](#)
- [State & federal contact information](#)
- [Resources & archives](#)

- [Groundfish](#)
- [Salmon](#)
- [Pacific Halibut](#)
- [Highly Migratory Species](#)
- [Coastal Pelagic Species](#)
- [Habitat and Communities](#)
- [Ecosystem-Based Management](#)
- [Council Operations](#)

[Currents](#)

- [Upcoming events...Highly Migratory Species Management Team to MeetAd Hoc Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup to Hold Work SessionRequest for nominations to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory SubpanelPublic Comment Deadlines for the September 2014 Briefing BookSalmon Advisory Subpanel and Ad Hoc Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup to Hold Joint SessionSalmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup to Hold WebinarSeptember 10-17, 2014 Council Meeting2014 Council Meeting ScheduleHot topic: September 10-17, 2014 Council Meeting](#)

- [Habitat](#)
- [Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas](#)
- [Fishing Communities](#)
- [Google Earth® Maps](#)
- [Wave, Tidal, and Offshore Wind Energy](#)
- [Blog](#)

Public Notice: US Army Corps of Engineers releases Draft EIS “Double-crested cormorant

plan to reduce predation of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary"

The US Army Corps of Engineers has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: "Double-crested Cormorant Management Plan to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary". See the Corps website to get the draft document and the public hearings schedule; <http://1.usa.gov/1ldjhVz>

Comment timeframe: Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted for 45 days from publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The comment period has been extended, and **will close August 19, 2014**.

How to comment: In your comments, please refer to the public notice number (CENWP-PM-E-14-08), title and date. Written comments may be sent electronically to cormorant-eis@usace.army.mil or by traditional mail to:

Sondra Ruckwardt
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E / Double-crested Cormorant draft EIS
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

This information posted as a courtesy to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 12th, 2014 at 8:23 am and is filed under [Habitat and communities](#), [Hot topics](#), [Salmon](#).

Last modified: 07/23/2014

Recent blog posts

- [Reminder notice and agenda available for the August 14, 2014 LCR Workgroup meeting](#)
- [September 10-17, 2014 Council Meeting](#)
- [NOAA requests comments on a proposal to update the Federal list of fisheries for West Coast states](#)
- [Salmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup to Hold Webinar](#)
- [UPDATED August 1, 2014: NMFS Salmon regulations booklet](#)
- [Salmon Advisory Subpanel and Ad Hoc Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup to Hold Joint Session](#)
- [Reminder notice and agenda available for the HMSMT August 12-14, 2014 meeting](#)
- [Public Comment Deadlines for the September 2014 Briefing Book](#)

[Subscribe To Blog »](#)

[View Blog »](#)



Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

- Groundfish
- Salmon
- Pacific Halibut
- Highly Migratory Species
- Coastal Pelagic Species
- Habitat and Communities
- Ecosystem-Based Management
- Council Operations

P: 503 820 2280
F: 503 820 2299
TF: 866 806 7204

Pacific Fishery Management Council

[skip navigation](#)

- [Home](#)
- [About us](#)
- [Contact or visit us](#)
- [Current \(or next\) Council Meeting](#)
- [State & federal contact information](#)
- [Resources & archives](#)

- [Groundfish](#)
- [Salmon](#)
- [Pacific Halibut](#)
- [Highly Migratory Species](#)
- [Coastal Pelagic Species](#)
- [Habitat and Communities](#)
- [Ecosystem-Based Management](#)
- [Council Operations](#)

[Currents](#)

- [Upcoming events... Highly Migratory Species Management Team to Meet](#)
[Ad Hoc Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup to Hold Work Session](#)
[Request for nominations to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel](#)
[Public Comment Deadlines for the September 2014 Briefing Book](#)
[Salmon Advisory Subpanel and Ad Hoc Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup to Hold Joint Session](#)
[Salmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup to Hold Webinar](#)
[September 10-17, 2014 Council Meeting](#)
[2014 Council Meeting Schedule](#)
[Hot topic: September 10-17, 2014 Council Meeting](#)

-
- [Habitat](#)
 - [Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas](#)
 - [Fishing Communities](#)
 - [Google Earth® Maps](#)
 - [Wave, Tidal, and Offshore Wind Energy](#)
 - [Blog](#)

Public Notice: US Army Corps of Engineers releases Draft EIS “Double-crested cormorant

plan to reduce predation of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary"

The US Army Corps of Engineers has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: "Double-crested Cormorant Management Plan to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary". See the Corps website to get the draft document and the public hearings schedule; <http://1.usa.gov/1ldjhVz>

Comment timeframe: Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted for 45 days from publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The comment period has been extended, and **will close August 19, 2014**.

How to comment: In your comments, please refer to the public notice number (CENWP-PM-E-14-08), title and date. Written comments may be sent electronically to cormorant-eis@usace.army.mil or by traditional mail to:

Sondra Ruckwardt
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E / Double-crested Cormorant draft EIS
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

This information posted as a courtesy to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 12th, 2014 at 8:23 am and is filed under [Habitat and communities](#), [Hot topics](#), [Salmon](#).

Last modified: 07/23/2014

Recent blog posts

- [Reminder notice and agenda available for the August 14, 2014 LCR Workgroup meeting](#)
- [September 10-17, 2014 Council Meeting](#)
- [NOAA requests comments on a proposal to update the Federal list of fisheries for West Coast states](#)
- [Salmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup to Hold Webinar](#)
- [UPDATED August 1, 2014: NMFS Salmon regulations booklet](#)
- [Salmon Advisory Subpanel and Ad Hoc Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup to Hold Joint Session](#)
- [Reminder notice and agenda available for the HMSMT August 12-14, 2014 meeting](#)
- [Public Comment Deadlines for the September 2014 Briefing Book](#)

[Subscribe To Blog »](#)

[View Blog »](#)



Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

- Groundfish
- Salmon
- Pacific Halibut
- Highly Migratory Species
- Coastal Pelagic Species
- Habitat and Communities
- Ecosystem-Based Management
- Council Operations

P: 503 820 2280
F: 503 820 2299
TF: 866 806 7204